The Attingal Town Arrack Shop.

98. ✻ **MR. S. GOVINDA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Attingal town arrack shop is located opposite to the school;

(*b*) whether any representation has been received to shift the shop from that locality; and

(*c*) if so, whether any action was taken in the matter?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) A representation has been very recently received. The matter is under enquiry.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Thiruvalla*): May I know whether there is any rule regulating the distance between a school and an arrack shop?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: The minimum distance laid down in a circular is two furlongs.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the Kidangannoor School has got a toddy shop immediately in the neighbouring compound?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN There is a petition received to that effect on which enquiries are being made.

Consumption of toddy and arrack.

99. ✻**MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN**: Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is a definite increase in the consumption of toddy and arrack in the State since Chingom 1118?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: The answer is in the affirmative so far as arrack is concerned. No figures are available at present in regard to consumption of toddy.

Siren on the roof of Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Memorial Ward, Quilon.

100. ✻ **MR. K. G. GOVINDAN**: With respect to the siren placed on the roof of Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Memorial Ward, Quilon, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) under whose orders the siren was placed there:

(*b*) whether the previous or subsequent sanction of the Medical Department was obtained for placing the siren there;

(*c*) how many times the siren was sounded; and

(*d*) whether as a result of the working of the siren, the temperature of the in-patients in the ward rose up?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: (*a*) By the Controller, A. R. P., in consultation with the local A. R. P. Officers.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Three.

(*d*) No.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN: May I know whether the sanction was obtained subsequent to or before placing the siren?

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DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: The sanction of whom, Sir?

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN: The sanction of the Medical Department.

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: This is an instance where doctors have differed. One Surgeon-General was of the opinion that there was no harm in placing the siren. Another was of the opinion that there was every harm. This is a case of emergency where the officer in charge has to take the required steps without any loss of time. So a third doctor determined to put the siren there, being the best location for it.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether there are patients in the hospital.

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: There are patients in all hospitals within the range of sirens all over the world.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether it is the convenience of surgeons or patients that is the guiding factor?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: This is a case of giving warning for the protection of all the people in the area. In fact when a siren is placed on the top of a building, only the minimum of noise is heard within the building.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know who is the doctor who placed the siren?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: The official Doctor in charge of the placing of sirens.

Price of salt.

101. ✻ **MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM**: Will the Government be pleased to state, with reference to the price of salt (published on page 1364, part I of Government Gazette, dated 15th Edavom 1117), the reasons why the price of salt per edangali in Parur is 3 chuckrams while it is only 2 chuckrams and 8 cash in Perumbavoor, which is more distant from the salt depot at Munambom than Parur?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: No special reasons could be assigned. Prices depend upon the local market conditions. It is understood that when the rise in the price of salt at Parur was found out, necessary enquiries were made by the Division Peishkar, Kottayam, and the price was regularised.

Increase in the price of cloth.

102. ✻**MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the price of cloth has mounted up rapidly; and

(*b*) whether they have taken any steps to control its price?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes, there has been an abnormal rise in the price of cloth.

(*b*) The problem is an all-India one and has to be dealt with on that basis. A standard cloth scheme is under consideration for the whole of India and the question of the State's participation in the scheme is engaging the urgent attention of Government. In the meantime, arrangements have been made for securing and distributing yarn at concessional rates to hand-loom weavers in the State.

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